

Alaska Mariculture Task Force Members

Appointed May, 2016

Paula Cullenberg is the director of Alaska Sea Grant, a partnership between NOAA and the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Alaska Sea Grant supports research, student fellowships, K-12 marine education and outreach to coastal communities by Marine Advisory agents across the state. Over the last 10 years, Alaska Sea Grant has invested over \$2.5M in mariculture development in Alaska including support for training and research in the shellfish farming industry, and research and technical support for the Alaska King Crab Research and Rehabilitation Program. Currently Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory is directing a demonstration project growing seaweed in Alaska's waters as well as new techniques for oyster farmers. Cullenberg has an MS in Fisheries, is a commercial salmon fisherman and has been involved in fisheries development and supporting fishing communities in Alaska for over 30 years.

Julie Decker, Vice-chair, is the Executive Director of the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation (AFDF). Decker has been involved in seafood industry development projects in Alaska for over 20 years. Decker also completed her Master of Public Administration degree, including a concentration in Natural Resource Management, from the University of Alaska Southeast. Decker lives in Wrangell and also commercial fishes with her family on the F/V McCrea.

Angel Drobnica works for the CDQ organization, the Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association. Her experience includes working on state and federal fisheries regulatory issues, and energy and food security project development in remote Alaska communities.

Jeff Hetrick has been the Director of the Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery since 2002. Previously he spent 20 years in the salmon enhancement business and has owned and operated an oyster farm in Prince William Sound and has conducted numerous enhancement projects. The Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery raises blue and red king crab, sea cucumbers, abalone, cockles, butter clams and littleneck clams, razor clams, oysters and geoducks. He has a B.S. and an M.B.A.

Chris Hladick, Chair, is the Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development. He has over 21 years of experience working with communities that have commercial fishing industries, as city manager for the cities of Dillingham and Unalaska.

Heather McCarty has been involved in the seafood industry in policy, research, aquaculture,

marketing and harvesting for 40 years. On the Mariculture Task Force, McCarty is currently representing the Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Association (CBSFA) related to its interest in the Alaska King Crab Research Rehabilitation and Biology (AKCRRAB) project. McCarty is Co-chair of the AKCRRAB Steering Committee and lives in Juneau.

Sam Rabung is delegated to fill the Alaska Department of Fish & Game Commissioner's seat on the MTF. He has over 35 years experience working in aquaculture programs in Alaska.

Dr. Michael Stekoll is Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of Alaska Southeast with a joint appointment in the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Dr. Stekoll has over 30 years of research experience on the biology, ecology and mariculture of Alaskan seaweeds. His recent focus is on the mariculture of kelps and sea lettuce.

Kate Sullivan is the co-Executive Director of the Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association. Prior to this she was a faculty member in the UA system for ten years. During that time she worked extensively with the aquatic farm industry, providing educational workshops and classes and conducting applied research in collaboration with the farmers. She continues to conduct research on marine bio-toxins and their impact on the shellfish industry in Alaska.

Chris Whitehead is the Environmental Program Manager for the Sitka Tribe of Alaska's Resource Protection Department. Chris manages all environmental projects including a harmful algal bloom monitoring program, designing and implementing a regulatory bio-toxin lab, subsistence foods monitoring for heavy metals and mercury, and other climate change related work. He has worked as a researcher developing re-circulating aquaculture systems to rear shrimp and as a shellfish biologist managing commercial crab and geoduck fisheries as well as developing oyster, clam, and geoduck aquaculture farms for local Tribal governments.

Eric Wyatt is owner of the Blue Starr Oyster Co., which is located on the outer coast of Prince of Wales Island. Blue Starr grows market oysters and oyster seed for farmers. Eric has worked with a wide variety of mariculture related groups and projects in Alaska, and currently is a board member of the Alaska Shellfish Growers Association and OceansAlaska, a shellfish hatchery.